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*Select Documents Illustrating Mediæval and Modern History.*

By EMIL REICH, Doctor Juris. London: P. S. King & Co., 1905. Pp. xvi+794.

Dr. Reich has favored us in this volume with a compilation of the most important historical documents of the mediæval and modern ages, that cannot fail to be of the highest value to university and other teachers of history. Placed in the hands of students possessing the necessary linguistic apparatus (principally Latin and French), it should do much toward creating that intellectual atmosphere which the mere study of textbooks can not accomplish in a lifetime.

The documents cover the period from that famous landmark in the progress of Christianity, the Edict of Milan, 313 A. D., to Bismarck's life-triumph, the Constitution of the German Empire, 1871; and every historically important country in Europe, and, in addition, America, is represented. A very interesting section is devoted to "General Institutions of the Middle Ages," and includes documents very useful in the light they throw upon feudal relationships; also one of the letters of Stephen of Blois to his wife (1098 A. D.) well known to students of the First Crusade, as well as other later records. The importance of the church in European history is recognized by the devotion to it of some 120 pages.

Any selection of documents covering such a lengthy and varied period must be open to more or less difference of opinion as to its inclusions and omissions. On the whole, Dr. Reich has been very successful in his discrimination, though one fails at times to understand the logic of his arrangement of individual records. For instance, the Edict of Nantes is placed by him, and naturally so, in the part assigned to France, but the Test Act of 1672, which, being local rather than general, would fall, with equal naturalness, under England, is relegated to the section on church history. Those using the volume will be under obligation to Dr. Reich for two helpful features—one, a series of explanatory and reference notes prefaced to the various documents; the other, a very complete index and glossary.

While much of the material lies outside of his special field, the student of economic history will find included not a few documents of considerable interest to him.

E. R. D.